

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to support this bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act: which honors our values, supports our servicemembers and families, strengthens our security and advances our leadership in the world.

Thank you to Chairman SMITH, the Committee and staff for their patriotic, persistent leadership on this legislation, which reflects the brilliance and diversity of the whole House.

This bill honors our responsibility to meet the needs of the servicemembers who sacrifice for our freedoms, and their families. It does so by:

Providing a pay raise for our men and women in uniform,

Strengthening parental leave for caregivers,

Expanding access to child care,

Improving the financial security of military members, including those who are low-income and have family members living with disabilities,

Protecting military communities from PFAS “forever chemicals.”

This NDAA also makes historic changes to better combat sexual assault in the military, including creating an Office of Special Victim Prosecutor within each service to prosecute crimes and criminalizing sexual harassment under the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice).

And it improves military health care, including related to mental health, women's reproductive health and suicide prevention.

In terms of protecting our security, there are many provisions of which to be proud in this NDAA. This legislation helps America combat our adversaries and invest in our alliances—with strong action to deter China and Russia, fight transnational threats and counter violent extremism.

And it brings our defense further into the 21st Century—with an historic 36 percent increase in defense-wide research & development, \$2.5 billion to fix aging infrastructure & support security-related R&D, \$1 billion in new cybersecurity investments, over \$1 billion for artificial intelligence efforts and investments in new partnerships with the private sector and academia, including HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions.

This NDAA builds on Congress's bipartisan action in passing Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) legislation to provide for the relocation of our Afghan allies and partners, as it authorizes \$500 million for this effort.

This bipartisan policy bill has been signed into law for 60 consecutive years. We all look forward to seeing the Congress continue this proud tradition, as we pass this NDAA on a bipartisan basis and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

Doing so allows us to honor the vision of our Founders, as set out in the Preamble, to “provide for the common defense,” and “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

ALL-AMERICAN CITY TEAM OF WHEAT RIDGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the All-American City Team of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person, group or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. The All-American City designation is given to cities that have exemplified extraordinary qualities as a municipality and provides a great quality of life for its residents. The City of Wheat Ridge is most certainly deserving of this designation, thanks to the help of the All-American City Team. Its members include Val Nessler Beck, Kate Cooke, Terry Gale, Rachel Hultin, Eugene Kahng, Diana Lopez, Kathleen Martell, Joy Opp, Morgan Richards, Jenny Snell, Jesse Johnson, Adam Wylie, Coco Beck, Thalia Beck, Dave Nosler, and Matt Emerson. These men and women display passion and commitment to their community, and I appreciate their hard work to ensure the City of Wheat Ridge gets the recognition it deserves.

Congratulations to City of Wheat Ridge's All-American City Team for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING LABRITTANY NICOLE KNIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual, Ms. LaBrittany Nicole Knight.

Ms. Knight is a native of Indianola, Mississippi. She graduated from Mississippi State University where she received her B.S. in Information Technology Services. After graduation, Knight took a job as Technical Support Representative at Cocolevio LLC.

Although born with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy, Knight said she views herself as very ambitious and conquers just about anything she sets her mind to. In her spare time, Knight spends time with her family and friends. She

is also very passionate about helping others and spreading awareness throughout the disability community. On September 19, 2021, Ms. Knight was announced Ms. Wheelchair Mississippi 2022.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. LaBrittany Nicole Knight for her achievements and being a role model for her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 268.

HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK 2021

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Constitution week.

234 years ago, The United States Constitution was signed guaranteeing our freedoms and inalienable rights from government tyranny. Our most sacred document defines our nation's principles and fundamental values that are the cornerstone for the greatness this country has achieved.

In honoring the Framers of the Constitution, let us take a moment and reflect on the promise of our civil liberties and celebrate the Constitution as the bedrock of the freedoms that together we all enjoy and cherish as Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating freedom, liberty, and the United States Constitution.

HONORING JOE GONZALEZ AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tireless advocate for the Hispanic/Latino community—Joe Gonzalez. Joe immigrated to Iowa in 1957 when he was 5, along with his mother and two younger brothers. Like many Iowa immigrant stories of the time, his family followed his father who came to work on the railroad. Joe is a retired member of the Des Moines Police Department where

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

he worked for 42-years and he remains a vital liaison in the department's outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community. Gonzalez was a long-time volunteer for Iowa's Latino Heritage Festival. He took over the reins of the festival as the executive director of Latino Resources Inc. in 2015, and has shaped the festival to what it is today.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively. There are 22 countries from Latin origin represented in Iowa.

The Latino/Hispanic community brings so much value to our state, and Joe's work with the Latino Heritage Festival is a great way to highlight that value. The festival provides the public with a family-oriented event filled with learning through music, dance, food, children's activities, arts, and cultural exhibits from various Central and South American countries. It also emphasizes the uniqueness of the culture by demonstrating the diversity within the Latino community. Lastly, it creates a venue to showcase Iowa-based performers, artisans, cultural craftsmen, and artifact producers.

Through distinct activities and exhibits, this event educates the youth and gives them a better understanding of the Latino culture, while teaching them tolerance and appreciation of diversity. Part of the mission for Iowa's Latino Heritage Festival is to give back to the community through academic scholarships to Iowa high school and college students. The festival last year presented nine \$1,000 scholarships to students.

Joe's hard work and dedication to uplifting the Latino/Hispanic community in Des Moines has changed the lives of countless young people in the area. He has helped folks understand why it is important to have a diverse community in Des Moines, and he puts a spotlight on all of the wonderful the Latino community has brought to the metro area. It is my pleasure to honor Joe Gonzalez as Iowan of the Week.

BARTAHOUSE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize BartaHouse of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Reinvestment Award.

The award is given to a Wheat Ridge business that has reinvested significant resources back into our community. BartaHouse is an eye-catching, four-room boutique hotel that offers an amazing rooftop with views of the

beautiful Rocky Mountains. In 2019, BartaHouse engaged in a full-scale renovation, rebuilding from the ground up. The renovations and modern decor continue to be a beautiful part of our community.

Congratulations to BartaHouse for being a leader in the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK RESOLUTION

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express support for the designation of the week of September 19 through September 25, 2021 as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week."

HONORING AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JULIUS JEFFERSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., for his service this past year as the national president of the American Library Association (ALA). A fourth-generation native of Washington, D.C., Julius received his bachelor's degree in history from Howard University and his master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland. As a librarian, Mr. Jefferson has spent his career committed to advocacy, information policy, diversity, equity and inclusion and professional and leadership development. In recognition of his leadership and dedication to librarianship, the members of the ALA elected Mr. Jefferson to be their 2020–2021 president.

Like so many of us, libraries have had to adapt to changing circumstances during the pandemic, and Julius provided extraordinary leadership throughout this time. Mr. Jefferson began his term as ALA president with a virtual tour of 12 libraries. The "Holding Space" tour is what he called a series of virtual conversations that highlighted the innovation and impact of a diverse range of libraries around the nation. The "Holding Space" tour engaged stakeholders, including elected officials at every level of government, to advocate for libraries and the communities they serve.

I note that many of us in Congress benefit directly from the work of Mr. Jefferson, who serves as a section head of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress. Mr. Jefferson has also served as president of the national Freedom to Read Foundation and of the Washington, D.C. Library Association. As a member of several boards, including the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Mr. Jefferson has worked to diversify the profession of librarianship and elevate the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Once again, I want to congratulate Julius Jefferson on his term as President of the American Library Association.

RECOGNIZING THE RAYMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Raymore Presbyterian Church in Raymore, Missouri and to celebrate its 150th year of incorporation as a parish, which will be recognized on September 25th.

In November of 1871, the Raymore Presbyterian Church was officially organized, and their current church building was completed in 1895. It is now the oldest standing building in Raymore, Missouri. The parish soon began making positive impacts in their local community.

The Raymore Presbyterian Church parish expresses their love for their fellow neighbors by hosting an annual community food drive and by being supportive and comforting in the community. Since their church doors opened, they have continued with traditional hymnals, organ music, and a friendly and welcoming attitude.

So, as we approach the 150th anniversary of incorporation of the Raymore Presbyterian Church in Raymore, Missouri, let us celebrate what God has done through the numerous rectors and clergy and the faithful parishioners in the service of God, their community, and our Nation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BIRCHWOOD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Birchwood, Minnesota. Residents gathered on September 10, 2021 to kick off its centennial celebration with a public reception at the village hall and unveiling of historic markers.

Located just north of Saint Paul in the Fourth Congressional District, this charming village hugs the southern shores of White Bear Lake. Originally part of Grant Township like many other small communities in Washington County, it became a part of Lincoln Township in 1918. Development in the area began to boom after the streetcar service was extended from Wildwood Park to White Bear Lake in 1904. This sparked a community of summer cottages for residents of Saint Paul, who would take the streetcar to vacation on White Bear Lake during the hot Minnesota summers. 100 years ago, in 1921, Birchwood was first incorporated as its own village, though the State Legislature later decided to convert the "village" to a "City of the Fourth Class." But the term "village" had stuck, and members of the community amended the official name to "Birchwood Village."

Throughout its history Birchwood Village has been a wonderful place to experience nature right outside of the bustling Twin Cities, attracting visitors to picturesque public parks and beaches, many of which remain today.

Many residents of Saint Paul would travel by lake steamer to shop in White Bear Lake, stopping through Birchwood on the way to collect passengers. The summer residents and permanent villagers relied on local farmers for much of their fresh produce and milk, as the small village was home to only one small grocery store. Many improvements came to the area in the 1950s, including water, gas and sewer service as well as blacktopped roads, a trajectory that led to an increase in permanent residents rather than summer vacationers, and which led the village to officially be designated as the City of Birchwood Village in 1974.

The historic Birchwood Village Hall was built in the early 1930's to use as a community building and for other town business, and the city council still holds all of their official meetings there today. The building, which is now the only nonresidential structure left in the town, underwent a renovation in the 1970's and 1980's that including an additional room and new siding, covering the original modernist-style design of Saint Paul architect Magnus Jemne. Then, in the spring of 2021, restoration crews discovered that the original vertical virgin-timber siding was still there in remarkable shape, and the village hall was restored to its original design, just in time for the centennial celebration this fall.

The village is led today by long-time resident Mayor Mary Wingfield, who has served in the role for over a decade and has eliminated the town of debt among many other accomplishments. With a population under 1,000, residents take great pride in their storied history and the neighborly atmosphere that has encouraged people to call Birchwood Village home for the past century and is sure to continue to do so for the next 100 years. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognition of the centennial anniversary of incorporation of Birchwood Village.

THORNTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Thornton Fire Department in Thornton Colorado for earning the 2021 Congressional Fire Service Institute's Masimo Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award, which is given annually to the top fire department in the country.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thornton Fire Department has gone above and beyond to serve their community. As part of their efforts, they created a Pandemic Response Team that has conducted over 20,000 COVID tests for public employees, senior citizens, first responders, and other community members. When vaccines became available, the Pandemic Response Team expanded their services to administer over 80,000 vaccinations at drive-thru sites for city employees and other members of the community. The Pandemic Response Team's success has led other fire agencies from around the country to look to Thornton as a model for how to effectively respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a very difficult year for fire and emergency services, the Thornton Fire Depart-

ment's innovative approach to a rapidly changing public health crisis has been crucial in saving lives and protecting the broader Thornton community. I extend my deepest appreciation to the first responders of the Thornton Fire Department for their dedication and outstanding service to their community.

BLINKEN SHOULD RESIGN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD my remarks from the Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on September 13, 2021.

I am grateful last Monday, September 13th, that there was a bi-partisan zoom appearance of Antony Blinken provided by Chairman GREG MEEKS and Republican Leader MIKE MCCAUL. Mr. Blinken sadly revealed he is disconnected from reality of threats to American families at home as I cited in my opening statement:

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Sir, in my service on the Foreign Affairs committee, the Global Terrorism subcommittee, the Armed Services committee, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the Helsinki Commission, I have always been impressed by American foreign service diplomats worldwide. Their dedication to service is inspiring. That is why I am shocked at your actions superseding military advice, leading to surrender in Afghanistan to be a safe haven for murderous terrorists. Biden-Harris have opened the Southern Border, stopping the wall of President Donald Trump. This allows identified terrorists of the Terror Watch List to enter American neighborhoods as lone-wolf suicide bombers to murder as many Americans as possible. In American History, American families have never been at greater risk of attack at home than today, as the Global War on Terrorism is not over, it has moved from abroad to American homes.

As the grateful father of an Afghanistan veteran, I especially see your actions as indefensible. With 12 visits by me across Afghanistan to thank S.C. Army National Guard troops, the 218th Brigade, commanded by General Bob Livingston, I know firsthand they appreciated serving with their Afghan brothers. I saw the U.S. Agency for International Development's success in building schools, agricultural advances, hospitals, roads, and bridges.

My beliefs have been expressed by the New York Post Editorial Board on September 1st.

Sadly, the advanced military equipment left to the terrorists is comparable to all equipment provided by America to Israel since 1948, including drones that are a threat to Americans. The countries who have suffered the most Islamic extremist terrorist attacks—India, Israel, and America are endangered. They shout, Death to America, Death to Israel.

We must never forget the May 8th bombing in Kabul where Islamic extremist terrorists slaughtered over 80 innocent young girls. You should have changed course on this gruesome, revealing fact alone. The murderers of that attack now will have safe haven to target American families at home.

Your bizarre abandoning of Bagram Airfield led directly to 13 Marines murdered in Kabul. You should resign. I yield back.

IN RECOGNITION OF 80 YEARS OF MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Messiah Temple Church located in Ypsilanti, Michigan on the occasion of their 80th anniversary. For the past eight decades, this church has been the embodiment of faith and service. Their commitment to serving the Ypsilanti community in the past, present, and future is worthy of commendation.

Formed in 1940, a vision inspired Elder John T. Elders and Sister Laura Elders to create a sanctuary for the people of Ypsilanti. They began holding prayer meetings in a wooded area they named Messiah Grove at the corner of Monroe and Hawkins and later in the home of the Barfields until they moved into their first church building on Monroe Street in 1941. Faithfulness, dedication, service, and spreading the word is what this church has focused on since their founding. Today, the vision of the Elders lives on through Bishop Harry Grayson, as he has led the Messiah Temple congregation in faith and service for the past thirty years.

In the years since that first meeting, Messiah Temple Church has grown tremendously, and the church is known as a place where warmth, compassion, support, and fellowship will always be found. The congregation's charitable work has sustained those in their time of need. The "We Care We Share" outreach ministry provides hot meals and clothing for those in need. Through this program they have served over ten thousand neighbors. Additionally, they host a food pantry and run programs for local youth and families. Even when faced with challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, this congregation has never faltered in their commitment to serving the people of the community and ensuring that they are taken care of. Their dedication to carrying out the teachings of their church is unparalleled.

The Messiah Temple Church has positively impacted the lives of so many through their outreach and for that we are grateful. The church has been under the steadfast leadership of Bishop Harry Grayson since 1991 and has only grown since then. Their ministry reaches not only across Ypsilanti, but around the globe. Those who know the spirit of Bishop Grayson know his compassion, wisdom, and tireless devotion to our community and to the faith that drives him as a servant of God.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Messiah Temple Church for their 80 years of faith and service. Please join me in congratulating Bishop Grayson and the entire Messiah Temple congregation on eight faithful decades and in wishing them the best of luck in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed the vote on Tlaib

Amendment No. 11 to H.R. 4350. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 271—Amdt. No. 11 to H.R. 4350 on agreeing to the Tlaib amendment.

HONORING JULIE AND PETER
BENDER

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie and Peter Bender, who will be recognized as the 2021 Moorestown Citizens of the Year.

Julie and Peter Bender have owned Moorestown Hardware for 20 years. Operated by these two Moorestown natives, the hardware store offers something for everyone with a wide selection of materials and tools, plus puzzles and popcorn. However, residents of Moorestown will know that their business is much more than a store—it's an extension of Julie and Peter's commitment to community service.

Throughout the year, you can find Julie and Peter working to support a wide array of community efforts that range from fundraising on behalf of scout groups and local organizations to supporting institutions such as the Moorestown Community House. Their business is routinely staffed by local high school students and is a part of a local program that hires special needs students, each of them amplifying the themes of kindness and hard work.

The Benders' support and dedication to their community have made a lasting impact on Moorestown, whether it's by donating 10 percent of their Small Business Saturday profits to local institutions or by donating a grand piano that has been used to teach thousands of children how to play.

Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." The Benders live and breathe their store and the town that supports them. Julie and Peter Bender are shining examples of service, and I commend them for receiving this award and their continued involvement in strengthening Moorestown.

TADD OVERSTREET

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tadd Overstreet of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving both the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Cultural Commission Award and Sustainability Award for his contributions through his coffee shop, Stylus and Crate.

Whether it be through public programming or the display of art, the Cultural Commission Award aims to recognize those who promote and encourage culture in the Wheat Ridge

community. Tadd has been engaged with providing the residents of Wheat Ridge with an enjoyable, cultural experience through his local coffee shop, Stylus and Crate, which seeks to provide its customers with a unique experience integrated with vinyl and art. Located at the BartaHouse in the heart of Wheat Ridge, Stylus and Crate serves up a mix of coffee, music, and art while also engaging in sustainable, environmentally friendly practices. The coffee shop uses coffee from local Denver companies and ensures their responsible sourcing practices have a positive impact on our community and our state.

Congratulations to Tadd Overstreet and Stylus and Crate Coffee Shop for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving these awards.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J.
WHITT

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late John J. Whitt, who ably served as Legislative Director and then Chief of Staff to two of our former colleagues from Guam: Congressman Robert A. Underwood and Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, respectively. Sadly, John died from cancer at the age of 64 on September 16, 2021. His funeral Mass was celebrated this morning at Our Lady of the Chesapeake Catholic Church in Pasadena, Maryland, where his family and many friends gathered to memorialize his life and offer prayers of thanksgiving for his public service. I was fortunate to be among them as my husband, Fred, and I were friends with John for many years.

John was well known to the territorial Delegates and their staffs in the House as he was a strong collaborator and visionary when it came to joining forces and forging consensus—where appropriate and possible—to advance Federal policy to improve the quality of life for Americans residing in the territories and to enhance understanding in Washington about indigenous culture and the way of life in the Pacific islands.

Born on October 15, 1956, to the late Charles and Christina Whitt, John was immensely proud of his CHamoru heritage and his upbringing in Barrigada, Guam. He graduated in 1974 from Father Duenas Memorial School in Chalan Pago, Guam, and in 1978 from the United States Air Force Academy, having been nominated for appointment there by Guam's first Delegate to Congress, the late Antonio B. Won Pat. Thereafter, John served our country as a B-52 pilot. But his other love, of politics, lured him back to his home island of Guam. One of his mentors, the late Colonel Edward Diego "Eddie" Reyes, USAF, who was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor on a winning ticket with the late Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo in 1982 recruited John to work on their gubernatorial campaign. It was on the campaign trail that Governor Bordallo, and his wife, Madeleine, took notice of John's sharp

intellect and keen political instinct. Not long after being sworn into office, Governor Bordallo tapped John to be his Chief of Staff at a tender young age of 27. After Governor Bordallo's term ended, John embarked on a short career as a commercial regional jet service pilot in the Southeast United States.

When Congressman Underwood was sworn into office in 1993, he brought John on board as part of his legislative team. In the 1990s, John helped advance the Guam Commonwealth Act for consideration by the House Natural Resources Committee and the Clinton Administration and assisted with Congressman Underwood's successful efforts to return excess lands taken by the Federal government to the people of Guam. When Typhoon Paka struck Guam in 1997, John was tapped by Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Lieutenant Governor Madeline Z. Bordallo to help coordinate the GovGuam response with FEMA. Thereafter, John returned to Washington—this time to serve as the Governor's liaison in town. When Lieutenant Governor Madeleine Bordallo was elected as Guam's first woman Delegate to Congress in 2002, she tapped John to serve as her Chief of Staff. John served in that capacity for her first seven terms helping her advance the Guam war claims legislation toward its eventual enactment and to provide for an orderly and balanced realignment of military forces on Guam.

John was a longtime, active member of the Guam Society of America, Inc., here in Washington, D.C. He was a consistent, consoling presence whenever one of the elders in the community passed away. John loved to lift our hearts in song and was fond of joining in the choir on special occasions. He would recite the CHamoru hymns and prayers. He was a gifted speechwriter and political strategist with an appreciation for history. He loved politics, the U.S. Air Force, to fly, his home village of Barrigada, and Guam. Most of all he loved his family, especially his brothers and sisters and his numerous nephews and nieces. He is predeceased by his parents and his siblings, Albert, Edwin, Emmett, and Julie Sisson. He is survived by his sisters, Frances Lucero (Larry) and Arlene Osorio (David), and his brother Jim Whitt (Debbie), and his nephews and nieces.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to remember John for his contributions to this institution as one of its staff members and for the positive force he made for the betterment of my constituents and our fellow brothers and sisters residing in the other territories. On behalf of the people of American Samoa, I offer our condolences to his family and to our former colleagues, Congressman Underwood and Congresswoman Bordallo, on whose staff he served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, the vote closed prior to me being able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 268.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today marks a very important event—the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps. On September 22, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act (Public Law 87–293). To date, more than 240,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 142 countries around the world. Prior to the global COVID–19 pandemic, there were nearly 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 61 countries. Today, Peace Corps volunteers stand ready to return to their crucial work once it is safe and prudent to do so.

Like successive generations of young Americans, my wife Patti and I answered President Kennedy's call and served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia from 1966 to 1968. As co-chair of the Congressional Peace Corps Caucus, I am proud to continue working in support of the Peace Corps' mission, its volunteers, and the indelible impact their service has on the lives of so many around the world.

And so today we commemorate 60 years of Peace Corps. We celebrate over 240,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have served around the world, and we celebrate those who have worked to fulfill the three goals both during and after their volunteer service: 1) To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; 2) To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and 3) To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

As Peace Corps volunteers have returned to America, they have continued to serve over their lifetimes. They serve as volunteers at twice the rate of other Americans. They are in our nation's schools as educators. They are in community programs as leaders and mentors across the country. And a few are even found in the United States Congress.

Today, there are global leaders of many countries who have been taught by Peace Corps volunteers in their high schools, in their grammar schools, or in their universities. They have a very special understanding of America because of the Peace Corps. They know Americans. They know that Americans have a big heart, and they have a desire to see progress, economic and social progress, in every country of this world.

The benefits of the Peace Corps at home and abroad are undeniable. Congress last reauthorized the Peace Corps in 1999 (Public Law 106–30), which expired at the end of fiscal year 2003. Now more than ever, Congress must support the Peace Corps' mission and realize President Kennedy's vision of generations of young Americans, ready to serve their nation and make the world a better place.

The bipartisan "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021" (H.R. 1456), which I introduced earlier this year on National Peace Corps Day (March 1), would do just that by providing additional federal resources to better support current, returning, and former Peace Corps volunteers. This critical legislation will

help the agency and volunteers impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic.

H.R. 1456 builds upon the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–256) and the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–57). The bill guarantees additional health insurance coverage for returned volunteers immediately following their service and requires the Peace Corps to better facilitate long-term public and private health insurance coverage options for returned volunteers. The bill also increases the federal workers' compensation rate for all Peace Corps volunteers injured or disabled during their service and strengthens protections of volunteers against reprisals or retaliations for reporting wrongdoing or malfeasance.

President Kennedy understood in 1961 that the Peace Corps would "permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development." I can think of no better way to honor the 60 years of Peace Corps service than for this Congress to pass the bipartisan "Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021" (H.R. 1456) to advance that vision into the 21st century.

To all the current and returned Peace Corps volunteers, I thank them for their commitment to serving others on this, the 60th anniversary. Our work continues.

WEST 38

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize West 38 of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's 17th Annual Reinvestment Award.

The award is given to a Wheat Ridge business that has reinvested significant resources into our community. West 38 is a new apartment complex in the heart of Wheat Ridge that provides market-rate housing to our community. With an impressive 165 units, many residents of Wheat Ridge will be able to call West 38 home for years to come. They also have a wide array of amenities for their tenants. Their beautiful development is a welcome addition to the housing market and our community.

Congratulations to West 38 for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving these awards.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Act and the dedicated heroes who work tirelessly to bring a positive change in communities across the world.

President Kennedy signed the Peace Corps Act into law in 1961 and presented the opportunity for American citizens to be innovators

and trailblazers in communities abroad. In the last 60 years, over 240,000 American citizens have humbly worked across the globe with local leaders to meet the needs of the host country's communities.

It makes me proud to know that for more than a decade, California has led the nation in recruiting Peace Corps Volunteers. Since 1961, 31,752 Californians have decided to share their heart, creativity, and ingenuity in over 140 countries. Our nation is thankful for the Peace Corps volunteers who go to their host country to bring a greater understanding of American values. And we can't forget the lessons that volunteers learn during their time abroad, and how their service helps them become more compassionate leaders back home. Peace Corps volunteers don't only serve as ambassadors for the global community but also as role models for a younger generation in the U.S. I hope their passion to serve others continues to transform and inspire our communities.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic temporarily suspending all operations in 2020 and evacuating all 7,000 volunteers across the world, the Peace Corps stands at the ready to once more promote peace and friendship in every corner of the world.

So, I want to take this moment to say thank you, not just to the men and women from California in the Peace Corps, but also to all those who serve and have served proudly with the Peace Corps.

Today, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Peace Corps Act and the men and women who intrepidly go out into the world to bring change and peace through hard work and American values.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. NAVY CORPSMAN MAXTON "MAX" SOVIAK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Navy Corpsman Maxton "Max" Soviak of Berlin Heights, Ohio. Max, always faithful, became one of the 13 heroes from the Navy, Army, and Marine Corps who gave their lives on August 26, 2021 at Kabul Airport in service to our country.

Corpsman Soviak was 22 years old, not even old enough to remember the terror attacks of 9/11 that spurred the war in which he would later be deployed.

And yet, at just 18, Max took it upon himself to answer the Nation's call to preserve and protect the blessings of liberty.

Reflecting upon his life, we bear witness to a young man who was beloved by friends and neighbors in his close-knit hometown of Berlin Heights, Ohio.

He excelled in school, was named to the honor roll, and earned a two-year certificate in electrical technology from the EHOVE Career Center.

He thrived in wrestling, football, Boy Scouts, and the school band.

And he was adored beyond measure by his parents and 12 siblings.

Max embodied the best of our Nation, a man of many passions, who was lively, strong,

independent, and fiercely loyal. Max's talents could have taken him in whatever direction he desired, and he did just that by enlisting in the U.S. Navy.

After graduating from Recruit Training in Illinois, Max was assigned to the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton, California.

He would go on to work in the immunization department at the Navy Hospital Guam, where he endeared himself to the locals by becoming a part of the local wrestling and martial arts community.

Max arrived in Afghanistan carrying with him his devotion to serving others, as well as extensive training in emergency medical techniques.

As a Corpsman and leader, Max was known as a "Doc," a specially trained Corpsman who provides both medical care to Marines in the unit, and is also ready and able to engage in combat right alongside them.

Docs are widely respected and possess an unbreakable bond with the Marines alongside whom they serve, owing to their responsibility of keeping the unit alive.

Max's duties extended beyond providing care and comfort to his unit. During his final days at Kabul airport, Max worked around the clock to help evacuate Americans as well as Afghan citizens, including very young children, who faced a dangerous and uncertain future if they remained.

Just before the terrorist attack on the airport, one of Max's final duties was to provide comfort to the children in need. One young boy in particular was brought through Abbey Gate and handed into the arms of Corpsman Soviak to be looked after.

This final act of Corpsman Soviak, providing aid to those going through unprecedented chaos, was a result of his extensive military training. But more than that, it came from who Max Soviak was at his core.

A strong, smart, loving, decent person who made a decision, regardless of the uncertainty or danger he faced, to join the armed forces and serve his nation in her hour of need.

The immensity of Max's loss to his family, friends, community, and our country, is as incalculable as it is heart-breaking.

That a future as bright as his would never come to pass causes a pain that will never truly fade.

But in the face of this unspeakable tragedy, where only darkness and sadness seem to reside, we hope that those who knew him and loved him most may take comfort and pride in the fact that their Max—their brother, son, and friend—did not die in vain.

Max's courage and dedication touched the lives of countless Americans and Afghans, including a young boy who had lost everything.

By standing up and answering the call to protect and defend innocent civilians, Max's actions, and his life helped to ensure that more than 120,000 people were able to reach safety after making their way through the gates where Max was stationed.

The men, women, and children whose names he will never know, but whose lives were assured by his selflessness—will serve as a symbol of his commitment until their final days.

It will never be possible to repay the debt America owes Corpsman Max Soviak or his family. He made the ultimate sacrifice, and his family and a grateful nation will forever mourn

his loss. We will honor his memory, and express our deep, unending gratitude for his willingness to serve America, and provide safety and comfort to strangers in need. Max demonstrated an uncommon heroism. For those who knew him at home in Berlin Heights, his patriotism and valor are exactly what they expected of him.

God bless and hold closely Navy Corpsman Max Soviak.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of en bloc amendments #2 and #3 which include three of my amendments that will improve transparency in our overseas contingency contracts, make our sanctions regimes more effective, and strengthen our ability to combat illicit financing networks.

My first amendment, #252, reauthorizes the Commission on Wartime Contracting which will engage in vital oversight of our contracting and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas where we conduct contingency operations.

This Commission has a proven track record of helping us reduce waste and fraud in overseas operations contracting. Indeed, in its prior iteration, from 2008 to 2011, the Commission found between \$31 billion and \$60 billion in U.S. taxpayer funds that were lost due to contract waste, fraud, and abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now that the U.S. has withdrawn from Afghanistan after 20 years, and as we prepare to end our combat mission in Iraq by the end of this year—after 19 years of war—it would be irresponsible not to examine what came of the hundreds of billions in contract dollars spent during these operations.

Amendment #253 comprises the language of two vital bills. The first is the Combating Illicit Finance Through Public-Private Partnerships Act, which would expand the mandate of the interagency supervisory team convened by the Department of the Treasury to examine strategies to improve public-private partnerships to counter illicit finance by including sanctions evasion and other illicit financial activities. The amendment also contains the provisions of the Strengthening Awareness of Sanctions Act, which would establish within the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) a voluntary public-private information sharing partnership among law enforcement agencies, national security agencies, financial institutions, and OFAC, which will allow for a more effective administration and enforcement to better administer and enforce economic and trade sanctions.

This illicit finance amendment will ensure that the sanctions we impose are able to successfully cut off the funding that allow bad actors to continue to carry out terror attacks, traffic in drugs, humans, and weapons, pose threats to the U.S. and our allies, and cause instability around the world.

Finally, amendment #254 directs the President to re-establish the Afghanistan Threat Fi-

nance Cell. This interagency effort would bring together law enforcement, military, and financial intelligence resources to identify, target, disrupt, and dismantle illicit financial networks.

Like the Commission on Wartime Contracting, the Afghanistan Threat Finance Cell has also proven itself as an effective body: not long after its establishment in 2008, it was the first organization to reveal an interdependent web of links between corrupt Afghan officials, criminals, drug traffickers, and insurgents. Thanks to the efforts of the Threat Finance Cell, the Executive Branch took action to pursue broad efforts to address and combat Afghan corruption.

While the Afghanistan Threat Finance Cell ended in 2014, this effort remains just as important, especially now that the U.S. no longer has an in-country military presence. The renewed Cell will serve a critical role in tracking and disrupting the use of threat finance by insurgent groups and other illicit actors, while augmenting the oversight work of regional financial investigative units. Only by eliminating the sources of funding can we effectively take on the terrorists, drug traffickers, and other criminal elements that continue to feed into the corruption and instability in Afghanistan.

Inclusion of these amendments will strengthen congressional oversight and government transparency, as well as bolster the effectiveness of our sanctions, and provide vital tools with which to combat fraud, waste, and corruption.

I would like to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member ROGERS for including these three amendments in the two en bloc amendments. I would urge all Members to support the passage of these en blocs.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan and plans for future counterterrorism operations.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine CARES Act oversight of the Treasury and Federal Reserve, focusing on supporting an equitable pandemic recovery.

SH-216/VTC

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the administration of laws under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD-106/VTC

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight
To hold hearings to examine existing resources and innovations needed to replace legacy IT and save taxpayer dollars.

SD-342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution

To hold hearings to examine toxic conservatorships, focusing on the need for reform.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine protecting consumer privacy.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on Administration efforts regarding energy security, including Nord Stream 2.

SVC-217

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the threat of worsening natural disasters.

SD-342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Texas's abortion law.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Ireland, Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, and Howard A. Van Vranken, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, all of the Department of State.

VTC

OCTOBER 6

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers emergency response to Hurricane Ida.

SD-406